

BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

Annmarie Cicchetti, Chair

The Beautification Commission's 2004 projects were many and varied efforts that, hopefully, make Dalton an even more attractive community.

The goal of having the MassHighway Department scrape and repaint the Main Street Bridge was realized in the spring. What had been an eyesore of peeling paint and rusting railing is now painted an attractive blue-gray color selected by the DBC. The Main Street Bridge became a new site for plantings. Six hay trough baskets were purchased to hang on the bridge, planted with a variety of annuals: sweet potato vine, dusty miller, white African daisies, supertunias—all contrasting with vibrant, pink “flying colors.” Unfortunately, one of the baskets was stolen.

Flower boxes filled with white impatiens were placed in front of the library windows, bringing light to the library façade and matching the shade garden planted at the library's entrance. Volunteer Mary “Sis” Kaley maintained this site for the DBC throughout the summer months. Additionally, the DBC continues to plant and maintain perennial and annual gardens at the intersections of North and Main, Main and East and Old Windsor Road, as well as the Main and South intersections. Also, the DBC started this year a small perennial display beneath the Wahconah Regional High School sign at the entrance of Old Windsor Road at East Street.

Throughout the year, the DBC has received extraordinary assistance from the Dalton Highway Department replenishing our planting areas with topsoil in the spring and maintaining the area around the WRHS sign. The Dalton Volunteer Fire Department continues to support the DBC's efforts by watering our floral displays over the summer. Burgner's Farm again donated pine bark mulch to lend a finished touch to our plantings, allowing better retention of moisture and providing a nice background to show our colorful flowers in a more vivid display. Additionally, the Holiday Farm this fall donated and delivered a rich compost which will protect our bulbs and provide a good start to our spring/summer plantings in 2005.

The Dalton Beautification Commission's main funding source is a small stipend from the town. However, the commission is most grateful to the Dalton Rotary, which has supplemented the budget with an generous, annual contribution. The DBC was fortunate this year to receive a grant from the Berkshire Garden Club, greatly assisting us in new projects. Also, donations were received from individual town residents.

In response to a request by the DBC, the Select Board expanded the Beautification Commission's membership from five to seven members. The current DBC members are: Mary Jane Caliento, Dorothy Chapman, Chairperson Annmarie Cicchetti, Secretary Allison Crane-Guyer, Doris “Deb” Painter, Deborah Smith and Gary Turetsky.

The DBC looks forward to attracting more community volunteers to expand our efforts at beautification. During the growing season of May through October, the DBC holds a weekly “Weeding Party,” Mondays from 6 to 7 p.m. All are welcome! For more information call 684-6111 Ext. 11, or 684-3966.